

No move to stop Dr M from being voted in

The Star - 6/9/2006

KUALA LUMPUR: There has been no instruction to prevent Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad from being elected as a delegate, said Umno Kubang Pasu division chief Datuk Mohd Johari Baharum.

"I have not been instructed by the party chief to prevent Dr Mahathir from being elected, nor have I told members not to vote for him. It was entirely up to them," he said.

Johari, once Dr Mahathir's political secretary, was commenting on the claim by the former prime minister in yesterday's newspapers that Umno leaders including party secretary-general Datuk Seri Radzi Sheilh Ahmad had tried to stop Kubang Pasu Umno division members from choosing him as a delegate to the party's assembly in November.

Dr Mahathir claimed that members were told not to choose him as his reputation as ex-president would be compromised. He also believed that the party was afraid of what he might say.

At the Parliament lobby yesterday, the Deputy Internal Security Minister claimed that Dr Mahathir made the statement as he was "furious that he only received about 10% of the total nominations."

The former Umno president had received 16 nominations out of 143 branches.